तथा अखिल भारतीय आयुर्वेद महासम्मेलन के समस्त सदस्यगण।

Drought Prone and Desert Development Programmes

460. SHRI RAM JETHMALANIA:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drought Prone Programme and Desert Development Programme are being run in the country;

(b) if so, since when these programmes have been running in the country and what amount has been spent for the implementation of these programmes, separately, till March 1995;

(c) whether any assessment of the programmes has been made by Government after making review of their implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the elaborate details of the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)* & Desert Development Programme (DDP) have been under implementation in the country since 1973-74 and 1977-78 respectively. The amounts spent since inception till March, 1995 is Rs. 1740.52 crores under DPAP and Rs. 593.87 crores under DDP.

(c) and (d) The programmes have been reviewed and evaluated from time to time. The programmes were recently evaluated by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission and reviewed by a Technical Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao. As per the evaluations and review, both the programmes created good impact in areas treated. However, the overall impact in the identified areas in the country was not encouraging due to following reasons:

(i) Watershed approach for development of the area was adopted only at few places. Sectoral activities were undertaken at isolated places without any integration to produce the desired impact.

(ii) Inadequate allocation was thinly spread over vast areas.

(iii) Officers and field functionaries entrusted with the development of the area were not properly oriented towards watershed based planning and implementation.

(iv) Local people were not involved in planning and implementation of the programmes.

(v) Wider range of activities which were neither properly integrated nor necessarily related to its objectives were undertaken under the programmes.

(vi) There was no proper arrangement for maintenance of assets.

Based on these findings and recommendations, the Ministry have formulated common guidelines for watershed development under DPAP/ DDP/IWDP/JRY-II/EAS. The guidelines contain provisions for overcoming the shortcomings of the programmes. Watershed development programmes arc implemented as per these new guidelines with effect from 1995-96.

Expeditions to Antarctica

461. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of expeditions launched to Antarctica so far;

(b) the result of these expeditions;

(c) whether any fresh expedition is proposed to be launched to Antarctica; and